

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 04410 161215Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 SP-02 PRS-01 L-03 /046 W
-----071249 170040Z /12-L

R 161110Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
DIFHYND/AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA 336
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 4410

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SU, LY
SUBJECT: SADIQ AL-MAHDI LEAVES SUDAN ON RECONCILIATION MISSION

REF: KHARTOUM 4364

1. PRESS REPORTS DEC 16 THAT SADIQ AL-MAHDI LEFT FOR LONDON
SUNDAY DEC 11 WITH NIMEIRI'S BLESSING" ON MISSION TO PERSUADE
SHERIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI TO RETURN TO SUDAN AND ACCEPT AMNESTY.
PUBLICITY FOR SADIQ'S TRIP WAS REQUESTED BY FATH ABDUL RAHMAN
BASHIR, BUSINESSMAN GO-BETWEEN FOR NIMEIRI, WHO SUGGESTED TO
SUDANGOV THAT SPATE OF RUMORS IN KHARTOUM OUGHT BE COUNTERED.

2. NIMEIRI TOLD AMBASSADOR DEC 13 THAT SADIQ WILL TRY PERSUADE
HINDI AND OTHER DISSIDENTS IN LONDON TO RENNOUCE THEIR LIBYAN-
ETHIOPIAN CONNECTIONS AND RETURN TO SUDAN ON NIMEIRI'S TERMS (REFTEL).

COUSIN OF SADIQS SAID PURPOSE OF TRIP WAS PERSONAL
RECONCILIATION WITH SHERIF HUSSEIN AL-HINDI. FRIENDS IN
KHARTOUM EXPECT SADIQ TRAVEL ALSO TO TRIPOLI TO MEET WITH
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HIS POLITICO-RELIGIOUS FOLLOWERS KNOWN AS ANSAR WHO STILL
IN LIBYA.

3. HUSSEIN AL-HINDI AND ANSARS IN LIBYA TOOK PART IN TRIPOLI
REJECTIONIST CONFERENCE EARLY DECEMBER IN WHICH SADAT'S
TRIP TO JERUSALEM CONDEMNED. ANSARS IN LIBYA HAD REPORTEDLY
ASKED LIBYANS NOT RPT NOT TO ALLOW HINDI'S VVISIT TO TRIPOLI.

HINDI RECENTLY SENT CABLES TO NIMEIRI AND SADAT URGING THEM NOT TO SPLIT ARAB UNITY. HOWEVER, NIMEIRI'S OUTSPOKEN SUPPORT FOR SADAT REMAINS UNDIMINISHED. ALTHOUGH LIBYA/SUDAN RELATIONS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE FOR MOMENT, BOTH COUNTRIES APPEAR BE AVOIDING PUBLIC ATTACKS.

4. COMMENT: SADIQ MAY BE TEMPTED IN LONDON AND LIBYA TO RECONSTITUTE OPPOSITION ABROAD UNDER NATIONAL FRONT BANNER IN VIEW HIS PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR QADDAFI'S POLICIES OVER NIMEIRI'S AND HIS PERSONAL FOLLOWING IN LIBYA. HIS RECEPTION BY ANSARS IN SUDAN HAS BEEN MIXED. SOME ARE MORE LOYAL TO AHMED AL-MAHDI HAS HAVING BETTER CLAIM TO SECT'S LEADERSHIP. HUSSEIN AL-HINDI HAS PERSONAL ADVANTAGES OF CLEVERNESS, FINANCIAL BACKING AND FOREIGN SUPPORT WHICH WILL COMPLICATE SADIQ'S ATTEMPTS PERSUADE HIM RETURN TO KHARTOUM ON NIMEIRI'S TERMS WHICH PROBABLY HAVE CHAFED SADIQ HIMSELF SOMEWHAT. BERGUS

SECRET

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